

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

August 28, 2019

By MDHHS PUBLIC RECORDS CENTER

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 S. Grant Ave
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request

To whom it may concern:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.231 et seq.

Specifically, CfA seeks the following documents relating to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program (“Program”):

1. Copies of all contracts, grants, or other agreements entered into by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, (the “Department”), pursuant to the Program, including but not limited to any contract or grant with Real Alternatives, a Pennsylvania non-profit;
2. Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, or other documents received by representatives of the Department from, sent by representatives of the Department to, or exchanged between representatives of the Department and representatives of Real Alternatives;
3. Copies of all quarterly status reports, final fiscal year report, or inquiries submitted to the Department by representatives of Real Alternatives.

By the way of background, Real Alternatives is the sole recipient of three consecutive grant agreements with the Department for the purpose of monitoring the Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. Real Alternatives is designated as a sub-recipient under the terms of its FY 2018 grant agreement with the Department.¹ On January 14, 2019, CfA filed a complaint with your offices requesting the investigation and termination of RA’s contract.² While

¹ See 2018 Grant Agreement Between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Real Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, Part I § (2)(A), Contract No. E20182832 (Dec. 6, 2017).

² See Campaign for Accountability Letter to Governor Whitmer, Attorney General Nessel, and Auditor General Ringler, Request for Termination of Michigan’s Contract with Real Alternatives, Jan. 14, 2019, *available at*

it has not been publicly stated whether or not such an investigation was initiated, the RA contract has not yet been terminated. Governor Whitmer's proposed FY 2020 budget removes funding for RA.³ However the Michigan Senate has proposed increasing RA's funding from \$700,000 to \$750,000 using TANF dollars.⁴ In the Michigan House's proposed budget, RA's funding remains at \$700,000.⁵

If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.243, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(5). If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.244.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.234(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within 5 business days of receipt, as required by Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(2). If possible, please email the records to me at jlong@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Health and Human Services to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Julia C. Long
Research Associate

<https://campaignforaccountability.org/work/letter-calling-on-michigan-to-terminate-contract-with-anti-abortion-nonprofit-real-alternatives/>

³See 123. Real Alternative Funding, *Health and Human Services S.B. 139*, Senate Fiscal Agency, (Jun. 17, 2019), available at http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/Departments/DecisionDoc/DDhhs_web.pdf.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*